NEW ACTION PACKED ADVENTURES
LASH LaRUE WESTERN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
LASH LaRUE
WESTERN
No 58
10¢
A CHARLTON PUBLICATION
STAN CAMPBELL

"Hey YOU SKINNY
You look like
SOMETHING
THE CAT
DRAGGED IN!"
the boys yelled as I dragged myself into the gym, says Jowett Pupil, Gleason R. Cleveland Then I gained 70 lbs. and made the football team

CLEVELAND BEFORE 90 lb. Skeleton

GLEASON CLEVELAND AFTER JOWETT TRAINING 160 lbs. of Muscle

Now wouldn't YOU Like To Have A New Body Like Mine? I added
7 INCHES to my CHEST
3½ INCHES to each ARM
and to the rest of my body in proportion as YOU can..
Yours John Sill UTAH

Come on, PAL, NOW YOU do as I did
in 10 EASY MINUTES of FUN a day
Get a NEW HE-MAN BODY
For Your OLD SKELETON FRAME!

I GAINED 60 LBS.
of SHAPELY MIGHTY MUSCLES!

Mail the "ALL-FREE" coupon get this "AMAZING "SECRETS" Photo Book while you can. FREE!

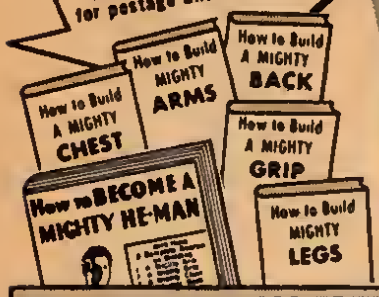
AMAZING SECRETS
How to WIN
MUSCLES like IRON
NERVES of STEEL
World's Great EXPERT Tells
You How YOU Can BECOME
An All-Around
ALL-AMERICAN
HE-MAN in
10 MINUTES of FUN A DAY
IN YOUR HOME.
PHOTO BOOK
FREE while they last

This Book will also show You
HOW YOU CAN WIN
$100.00 and A BIG 15" tall
SILVER TROPHY (Your Name On It)
as I have just done.

You'll LOOK like A Real HE-MAN!
WIN WOMEN AND MEN FRIENDS
You'll FEEL like A Real HE-MAN!
Full of New Strength and Self Confidence
You'll ACT like A Real HE-MAN!
Win in Sports! Win Promotion, Praise, Popularity. Make More Money

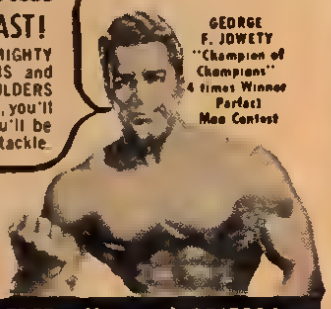
John Sill was a 125 lb Skinny Weakling

Before $1 price goes back
YOUR LAST CHANCE
TO GET ALL 5 FREE!
PICTURE PACKED COURSES
MILLIONS HAVE BEEN SOLD
FOR $1 AND MORE
Just send me a dime for postage and handling



Let's go, young fellow, Now YOU give me
10 PLEASANT MINUTES A DAY IN YOUR HOME
like SLIM JOHN SILL DID and I'll give YOU a New HE-MAN BODY as I gave MANY Thousands like You
NO! I don't care how skinny or flabby you are I'll make you OVER by the SAME method I turned myself from a wreck to the strongest of the strong Why can't I do for you what I did for MANY THOUSANDS of skinny fellows like You?

Develop YOUR 520 MUSCLES
Gain Pounds, INCHES FAST!
YES! You'll see INCHES of MIGHTY MUSCLE added to your ARMS and CHEST Your BACK and SHOULDERS broadened From head to heels, you'll gain SIZE, POWER, SPEED You'll be A WINNER in EVERYTHING you tackle



GEORGE F. JOWETT "Champion of Champions" 4 times Winner Perfect Man Contest

Like Jake BECOME A MOVIE STAR HE-MAN

ONLY MY 5-WAY PROGRESSIVE POWER BUILDS YOU 5-WAYS FAST SO YOU SAVE YEARS AND DOLLARS!

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2. MUSCLE METER 3. FIVE COURSES
Dept CH511
Tell Me How To WIN $100, etc

Jowett Courses greatest in World for Building All Around MEN — G. F. Kelley Physical Director

JOWETT INSTITUTE OF PHYSICAL TRAINING
220 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK 1, N. Y.
Dear George Please mail to me FREE Jowett's Photo Book of Strong Men and a Muscle Meter plus all 5 HE MAN Building Courses 1 How to Build a Mighty Chest 2 How to Build a Mighty Arm 3 How to Build a Mighty Grip 4 How to Build a Mighty Back 5 How to Build Mighty Legs - Now all in One Volume How to become a Mighty HE MAN ENCLOSED FIND 10c FOR POSTAGE AND HANDLING (no C O D s)

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CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____

SAVES you YEARS and DOLLARS!!!

Mail Coupon in Time for FREE offer and PRIZES!

LASH LA RUE WESTERN Volume 3, Number 58 November, 1955
Published bimonthly by Charlton Comics Group. Executive offices and office of publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office, at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 10c. Subscription 12 issues, $1.20.

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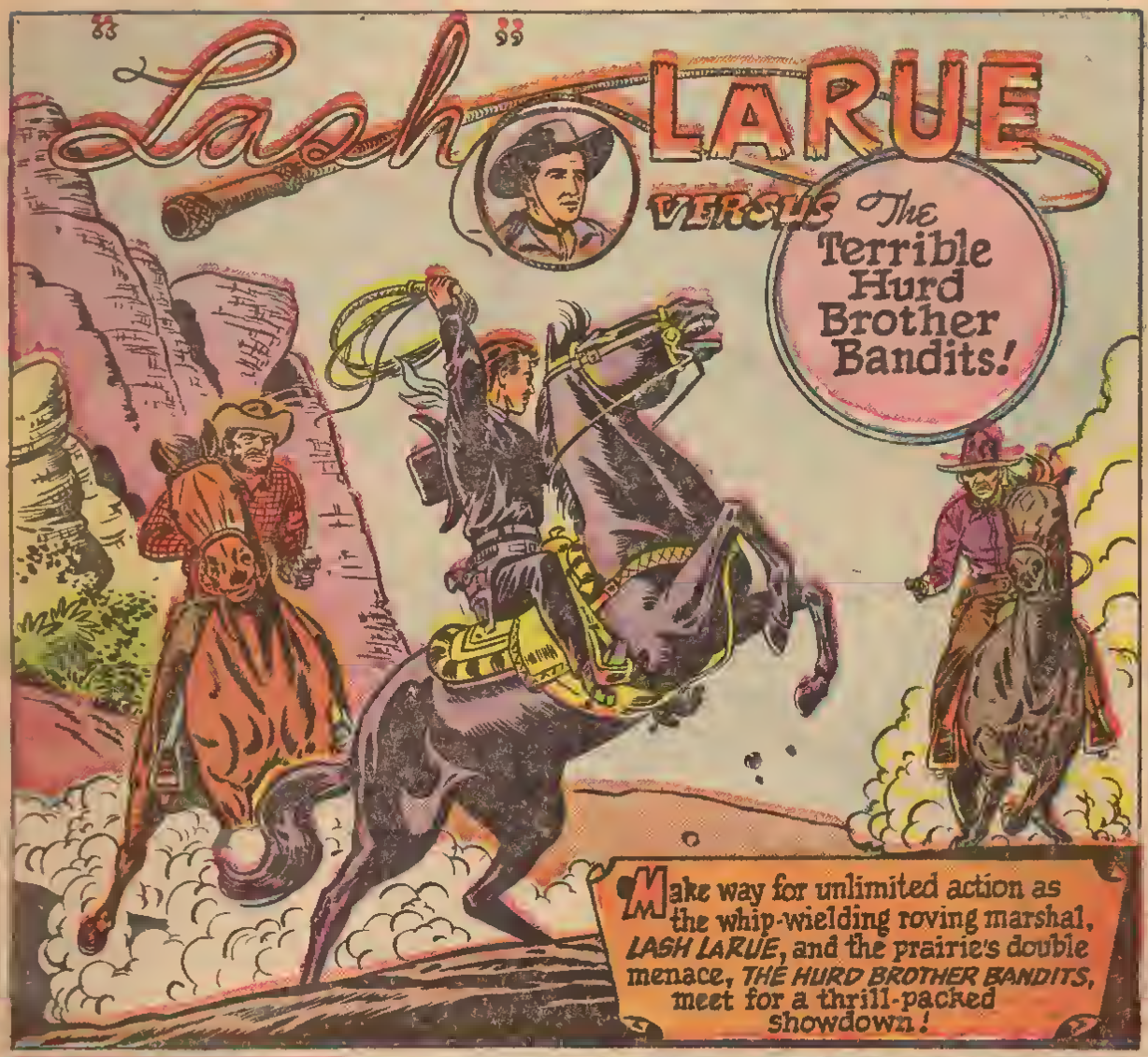
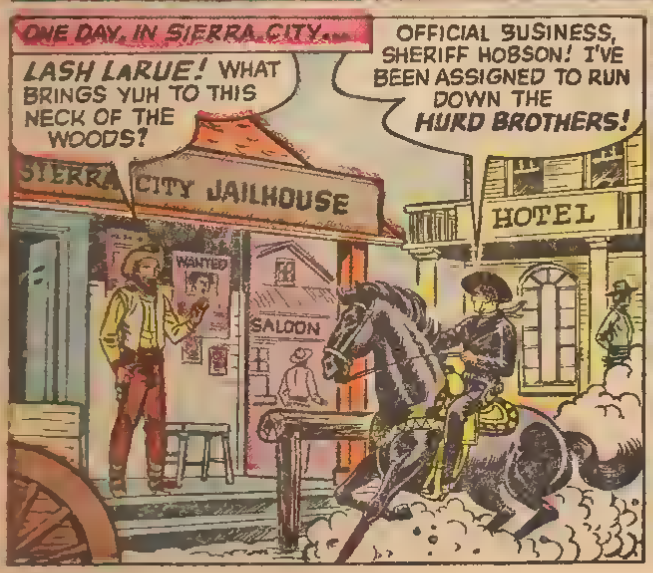
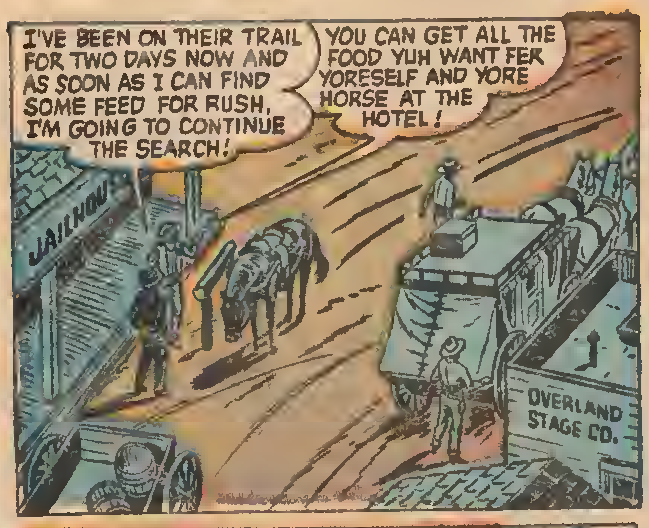
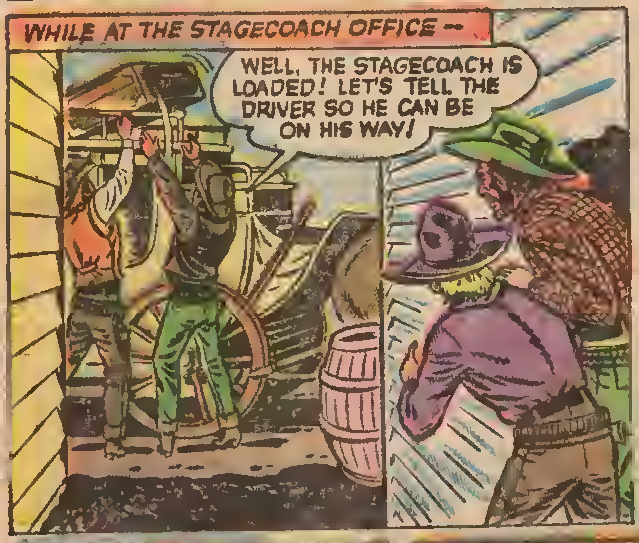

Lash LaRUE
VERSUS
The Terrible Hurd Brother Bandits!
Make way for unlimited action as the whip-wielding roving marshal, LASH LARUE, and the prairie's double menace, THE HURD BROTHER BANDITS, meet for a thrill-packed showdown!

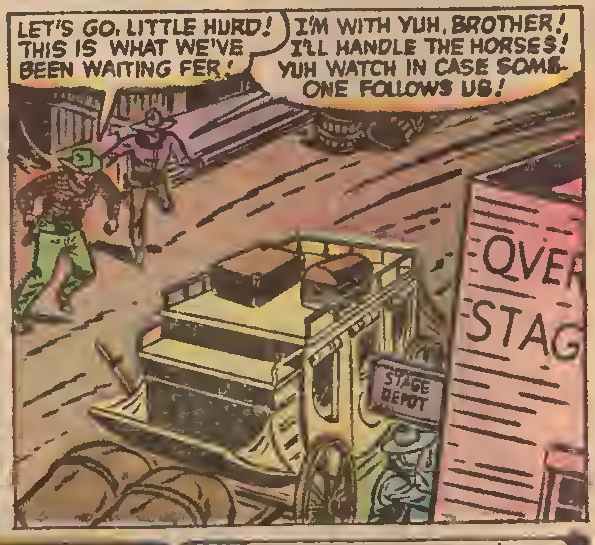

ONE DAY, IN SIERRA CITY...
LASH LARUE! WHAT BRINGS YUH TO THIS NECK OF THE WOODS?
OFFICIAL BUSINESS, SHERIFF HOBSON! I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO RUN DOWN THE HURD BROTHERS!
SIERRA CITY JAILHOUSE
HOTEL
WANTED
SALOON

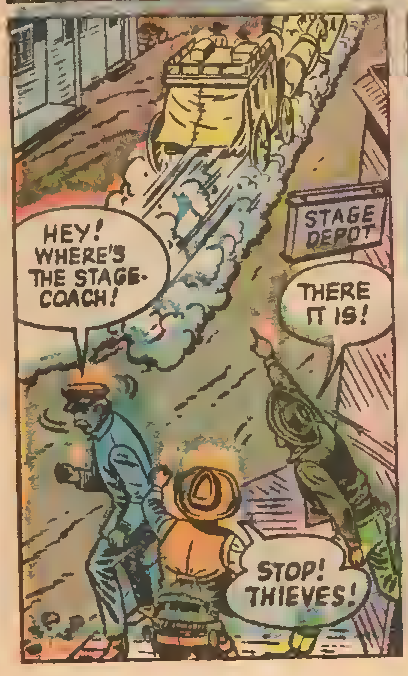
DON'T TELL ME THOSE BANDITS ARE IN SIERRA CITY!
ALL SIGNS SEEM TO INDICATE THAT THEY HEADED THIS WAY, SHERIFF!

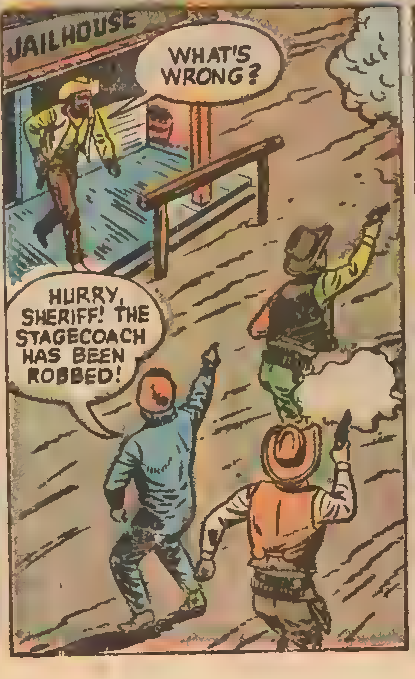

I'VE BEEN ON THEIR TRAIL FOR TWO DAYS NOW AND AS SOON AS I CAN FIND SOME FEED FOR RUSH, I'M GOING TO CONTINUE THE SEARCH!
YOU CAN GET ALL THE FOOD YUH WANT FER YORESELF AND YORE HORSE AT THE HOTEL!
JAIL HOUSE
OVERLAND STAGE CO.

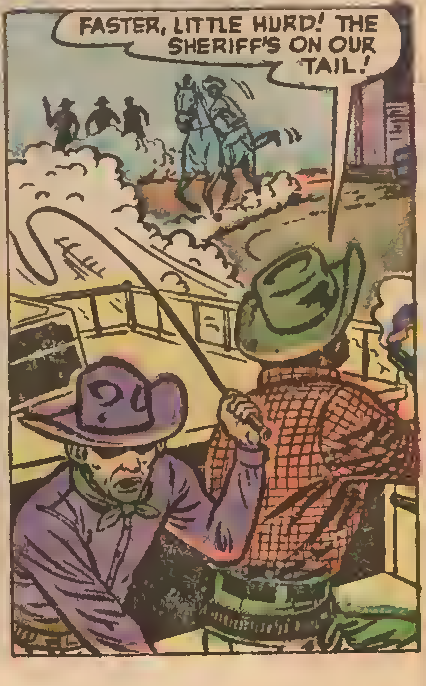
THANKS, BUT WHILE RUSH IS EATING, I'M GOING TO TAKE A BATH!
SEE ME BEFORE YUH LEAVE, LASH! I WANT ALL THE PARTICULARS YUH CAN GIVE ME ON THE HURDS IF THEY'RE IN THIS TERRITORY!
HOTEL

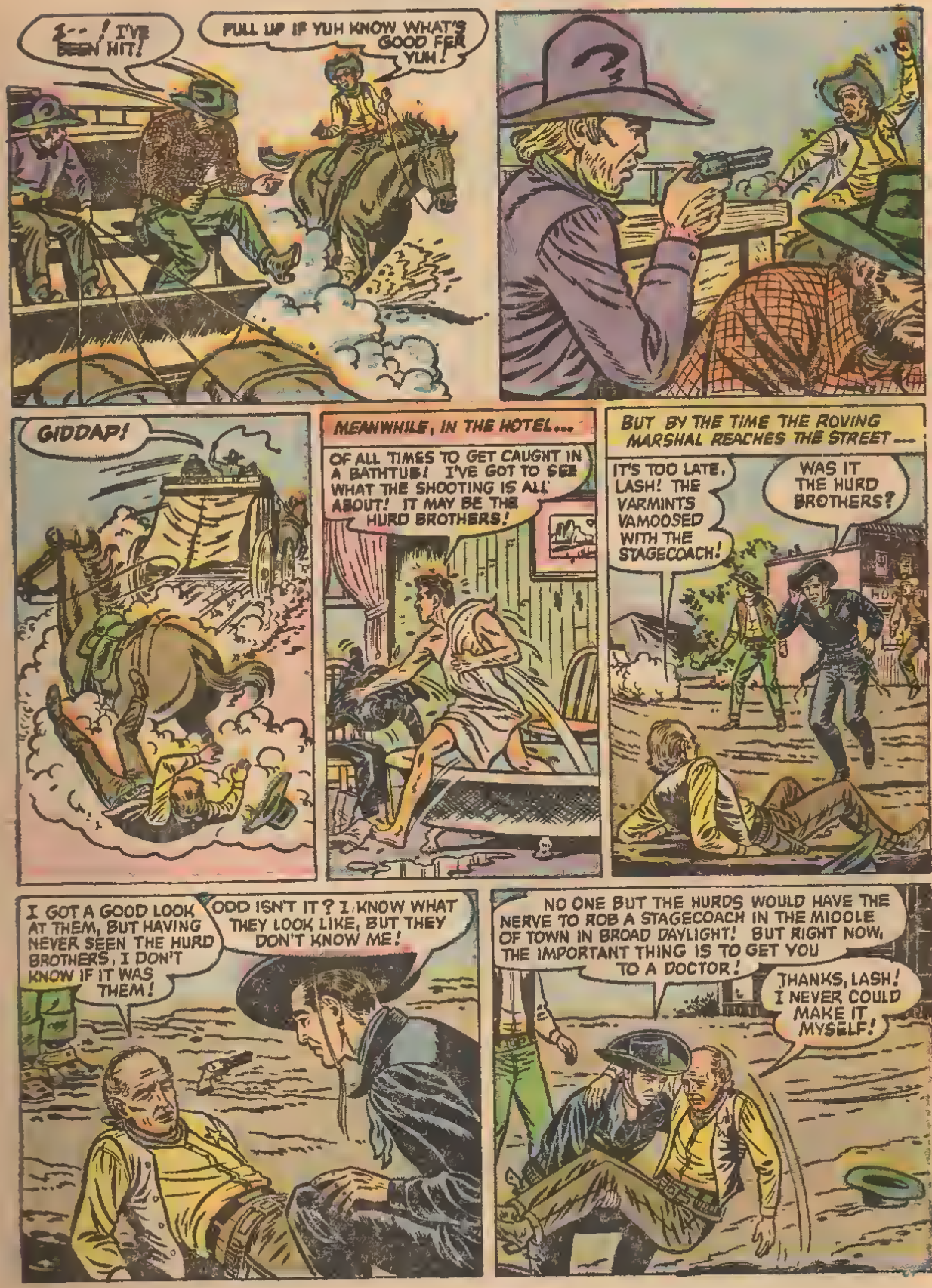

WHILE AT THE STAGECOACH OFFICE --
WELL, THE STAGECOACH IS LOADED! LET'S TELL THE DRIVER SO HE CAN BE ON HIS WAY!


LET'S GO, LITTLE HURD! THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN WAITING FER!
I'M WITH YUH, BROTHER! I'LL HANDLE THE HORSES! YUH WATCH IN CASE SOMEONE FOLLOWS US!
STAGE DEPOT


HEY! WHERE'S THE STAGECOACH!
STAGE DEPOT
THERE IT IS!
STOP! THIEVES!


JAILHOUSE
WHAT'S WRONG?
HURRY, SHERIFF! THE STAGECOACH HAS BEEN ROBBED!


FASTER, LITTLE HURD! THE SHERIFF'S ON OUR TAIL!
?!


I'VE BEEN HIT!
PULL UP IF YUH KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FER YUH!
GIDDAP!
MEANWHILE, IN THE HOTEL...
OF ALL TIMES TO GET CAUGHT IN A BATHTUB! I'VE GOT TO SEE WHAT THE SHOOTING IS ALL ABOUT! IT MAY BE THE HURD BROTHERS!
BUT BY THE TIME THE ROVING MARSHAL REACHES THE STREET...
IT'S TOO LATE, LASH! THE VARMINTS VAMOOSED WITH THE STAGECOACH!
WAS IT THE HURD BROTHERS?
I GOT A GOOD LOOK AT THEM, BUT HAVING NEVER SEEN THE HURD BROTHERS, I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS THEM!
ODD ISN'T IT? I KNOW WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW ME!
NO ONE BUT THE HURDS WOULD HAVE THE NERVE TO ROB A STAGECOACH IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN IN BROAD DAYLIGHT! BUT RIGHT NOW, THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO GET YOU TO A DOCTOR!
THANKS, LASH! I NEVER COULD MAKE IT MYSELF!

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O.K. Here is my dollar Rush my Complete Space Rocketeer by return mail Unisss completely satisfied I can return it and gel my dollar back.

NAME _____

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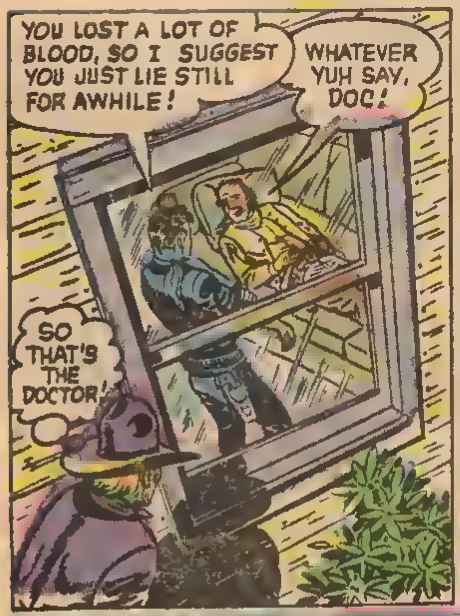
BUT AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE...
WHAT DID THE NOTE ON THE DOOR SAY, LASH?
IT SAID THE DOCTOR WON'T BE BACK TILL LATE TONIGHT!
YOUR WOUND IS ONLY SUPERFICIAL, SO I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT ATTENDING TO IT UNTIL THE DOCTOR GETS BACK!
MEANWHILE —
YUH'VE GOT TO STOP, LITTLE HURD! MY LEG'S KILLING ME!
I SEE A CLEARING OFF THE TRAIL JUST UP AHEAD! I'LL CUT OFF THERE!
OVER
EVEN IF A POSSE SHOULD RIDE AFTER US, THEY'D NEVER SPOT US HYAR!
THE PAIN KEEPS GETTING WORSE! YUH'LL HAVE TO GET A DOCTOR FOR MY LEG!
A DOCTOR WILL INSIST ON BRINGING YUH BACK TO TOWN TO PATCH YUH UP — AND IF WE GO BACK TO TOWN NOW, BIG HURD, IT'LL MEAN JAIL FER SURE!
IF YUH GET A DOCTOR HYAR, I THINK I CAN CONVINCE HIM TO FIX ME UP — AND ALSO TO KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT!
I GET YUH, BIG HURD! I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO ABOUT RUSTLING UP A SAWBONES FER YUH!
SHORTLY AFTER, AT THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE —
DOES IT FEEL ANY BETTER, SHERIFF?
FINE! FROM NOW ON, I'M NOT GOING TO CALL YUH MARSHAL, LASH, YO'RE DOC TO ME!
BULLETS AND TEETH


YOU LOST A LOT OF BLOOD, SO I SUGGEST YOU JUST LIE STILL FOR AWHILE!
WHATEVER YUH SAY, DOC!
SO THAT'S THE DOCTOR!

WAIT A SECOND! I'M COMING!
KNOCK!

KEEP YORE MOUTH SHUT AND DO AS I SAY AND NOBODY WILL GET HURT!
IT'S ONE OF THE HURDS!
DOCTOR'S OFFICE

STAY WHERE YUH ARE! TAKE ONE MORE STEP---

—AND I'LL LET THE SHERIFF HAVE IT!
I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST YOU TO SHOOT A HELPLESS MAN!
BULLETS EXTRACTE

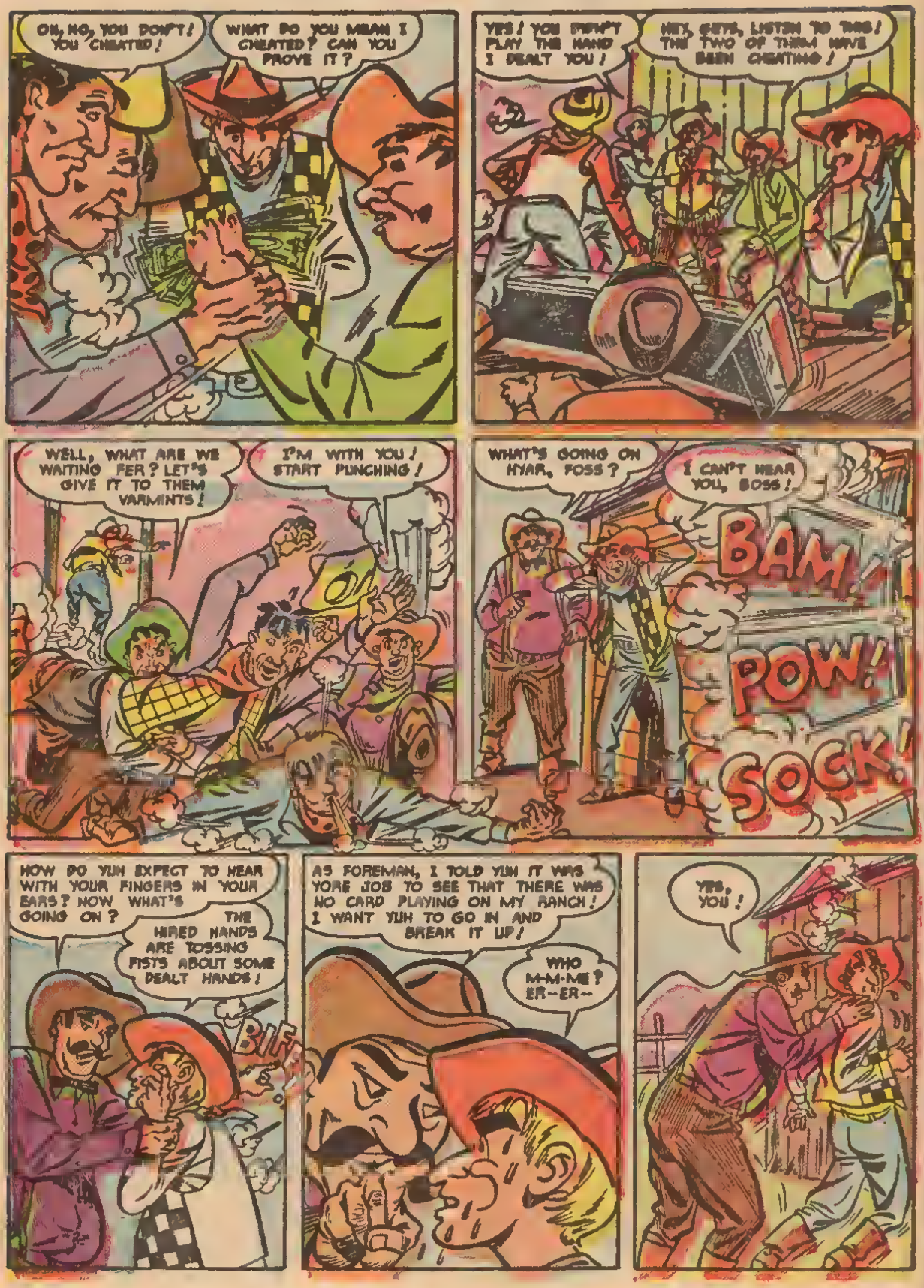
WE'LL SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES LATER! RIGHT NOW YO'RE COMING WITH ME--- HERE'S YOUR BAG!
--- AND JUST IN CASE YUH HAVE ANY MORE TRICKS UP YORE SLEEVE, I'M TAKING THE SHERIFF ALONG AS MY PERSONAL SHIELD!
AND I DON'T WANT ANY TALKING BETWEEN THE TWO OF YUH! START MOVING! I SAW A BUCKBOARD IN THE BACK OF THE HOUSE! WE CAN ALL GET IN IT!
SOON ---
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
JUST KEEP DRIVING! I'LL TELL YUH WHERE TO TURN!
SHORTLY AFTER ---
TURN OFF JUST BEYOND THOSE TREES!
THIS IS THE END OF THE ROAD!
HERE'S THE STAGECOACH! THEN THE HURD BROTHERS DID SHOOT THE SHERIFF!
WHAT'S THE IDEA OF BRINGING THE SHERIFF BACK WITH YOU?
I HAD TO! THIS DOCTOR'S FULL OF TRICKS!
JKL M.D.

BUT I DON'T RECKON HE'LL PULL ANY WITH THE SHERIFF'S LIFE AT STAKE!
OKAY, DOCTOR! START PATCHING UP MY LEG!
DOCTOR! SO THAT'S WHY HE MADE ME COME OUT HERE!
WITH THE SHERIFF AT THE WRONG END OF LITTLE HURD'S SIX-SHOOTER, I'LL HAVE TO PLAY ALONG UNTIL I CAN THINK OF SOME WAY OUT!
AND I THINK I'VE GOT IT!
LASH MUST HAVE SOME IDEA IN HIS MIND TO KEEP ON PRETENDING TO BE THE DOCTOR! IN MY WEAKENED CONDITION, I RECKON THE ONLY WAY I CAN HELP IS TO KEEP MY MOUTH SHUT!
THIS LEG WILL NEED AN IMMEDIATE OPERATION! WE'LL HAVE TO GET HIM BACK TO MY OFFICE!
I'M NOT GOING ANY PLACE! IF IT NEEDS AN OPERATION, YUH'LL HAVE TO OPERATE ON IT RIGHT HYAR!
OKAY – BUT I'LL STILL HAVE TO GO BACK TO MY OFFICE TO GET THE RIGHT EQUIPMENT!
LITTLE HURD WILL GO WITH YUH! AND JUST IN CASE YOU'VE GOT ANY NOTIONS ABOUT DOUBLE-CROSSING US, REMEMBER—
— I'LL BE COVERING THE SHERIFF AND IF YO'RE NOT BACK IN A HALF HOUR, I'LL LET HIM HAVE IT!
WE'LL BE BACK!

I DIDN'T FIGURE THEY'D FALL FOR THIS, BUT IT WAS WORTH TRYING!
AT THE OFFICE —
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I NEED!
WELL, IF YUH'VE GOT EVERYTHING, LET'S BE ON OUR WAY! DON'T FERGET, BIG HURD ONLY GAVE YUH A HALF HOUR TO GET BACK!
OH-OH! HERE COMES THE REAL DOCTOR! IF HE STARTS ASKING WHAT I'M DOING WITH HIS BAG, LITTLE HURD WILL FIND OUT THIS IS ALL A TRICK AND THAT'LL BE THE END OF THE SHERIFF!
HEY! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HOTEL
DOCTOR'S OFFICE
C'MON, LITTLE HURD! LET'S GO!
WHAT WAS THE IDEA OF KNOCKING HIM OUT, DOCTOR?
THIS WAY, HE'LL BE UNABLE TO FOLLOW US IF HE WAS SUSPICIOUS!
BACK IN THE CLEARING —
OKAY, I'VE CLEANED THE LEG OFF, LIKE YUH TOLD ME! START OPERATING!
I'LL START OPERATING...
CHLOROFORM

CRASH!
—BUT IT'S NOT THE KIND OF OPERATING YOU EXPECT!
(CHOKE!) (CHOKE!) I CAN'T BREATHE!
THERE WAS CHLOROFORM IN THAT BOTTLE!
I WARNED YUN ABOUT DOUBLE-CROSSING US! NOW THE SHERIFF (CHOKE) GETS IT! (CHOKE) (CHOKE)--
THE SHERIFF GETS NOTHING! I KNEW THE CHLOROFORM WOULD KNOCK YOU OUT BEFORE YOU COULD PULL THE TRIGGER!
LATER, AT THE JAILHOUSE —
OKAY, BIG HURD'S LEG IS FIXED UP, NOT THAT HE'LL BE GOING ANY PLACE ON IT FOR A LONG TIME!
ONCE AGAIN, DOCTOR, I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR KNOCKING YOU OUT! AND I ALSO WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR KNOCKING YOU OUT, SHERIFF, WITH THE CHLOROFORM! BUT IN BOTH CASES, I HAD NO CHOICE!
WANTED
IN THIS INSTANCE, BEING KNOCKED OUT WAS A PLEASURE, LASH!
THOSE ARE MY SENTIMENTS, TOO!
LET'S HIT THE TRAIL, RUSH! GOOD BYE, FRIENDS!
HOTEL

FOREMAN FOSS
KEEP IT QUIET, GUYS! IF FOREMAN FOSS KNEW WE WERE PLAYING CARDS IN HERE HE WOULDN'T LIKE IT!
SO WHAT? FOREMAN FOSS WOULDN'T DARE SAY ANYTHING! HE'S AFRAID OF HIS OWN SHADOW!
THAT'S A LIE! I'M NOT AFRAID OF MY OWN SHADOW — THAT IS — IF IT'S IN FRONT OF ME WHERE I CAN KEEP AN EYE ON IT!
IT'S MY DEAL, ISN'T IT?
THAT'S RIGHT, PETE! GO AHEAD AND DEAL!
OKAY, HERE GOES!
SOME HAND YOU DEALT ME! IT LOOKS MORE LIKE A FOOT!
I BET FIVE DOLLARS!
I BET TEN DOLLARS!
I RAISE YOU ANOTHER FIVE!
NOW LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT!
I'VE GOT FOUR ACES! I GUESS I WIN!


OH, NO, YOU DON'T! YOU CHEATED!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I CHEATED? CAN YOU PROVE IT?
YES! YOU DIDN'T PLAY THE HAND I DEALT YOU!
HEY, GETS, LISTEN TO THIS! THE TWO OF THEM HAVE BEEN CHEATING!
WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FER? LET'S GIVE IT TO THEM VARMINTS!
I'M WITH YOU! START PUNCHING!
WHAT'S GOING ON HYAR, FOSS?
I CAN'T HEAR YOU, BOSS!
BAM!
POW!
SOCK!
HOW DO YUH EXPECT TO HEAR WITH YOUR FINGERS IN YOUR EARS? NOW WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE HIRED HANDS ARE TOSSING FISTS ABOUT SOME DEALT HANDS!
BIF
AS FOREMAN, I TOLD YUH IT WAS YORE JOB TO SEE THAT THERE WAS NO CARD PLAYING ON MY RANCH! I WANT YUH TO GO IN AND BREAK IT UP!
WHO M-M-ME? ER--ER--
YES, YOU!

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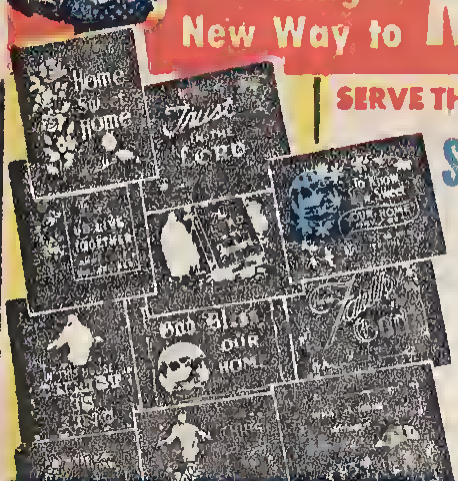

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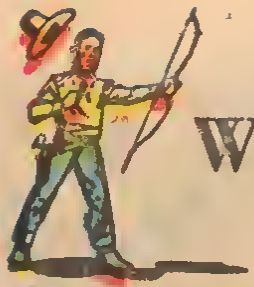
SEE, BOSS, IT'S NOT NECESSARY TO BREAK IT UP! THEY'VE STOPPED FIGHTING ALREADY AND THEY'RE NOT PLAYING CARDS ANYMORE!
BUT THEY'RE PLAYING DICE AND ---
---AS FOREMAN, IT'S YOUR JOB TO BREAK UP THE GAME! NOW GET TO IT! I'LL WAIT OUT HYAR FOR YUH!
SHORTLY AFTER.....
WELL, DID YUH BREAK UP THE GAME?
I SURE DID!
THAT WAS QUICK WORK! HOW DID YUH DO IT?
I FIGURED WITHOUT ANY MONEY LEFT THEY COULDN'T GAMBLE SO I CLEANED THEM OUT OF ALL THEIR MONEY!
DO YUH MEAN YUH GAMBLED WITH THEM?
WELL, IT WASN'T EXACTLY GAMBLING! YUH SEE I WASN'T TAKING ANY CHANCES...

— SINCE I WAS USING CROOKED DICE!
YUH STOPPED THE GAMBLING ALL RIGHT, BUT I DON'T APPROVE OF THE WAY! IF YUH WEREN'T SO DUMB, YUH WOULD HAVE REALIZED YUH WERE GAMBLING, TOO!
GOSH, BOSS, I JUST DIDN'T THINK OF THAT! HOW IS IT YOU'RE SO SMART?
THAT'S BECAUSE I EAT A STRANGE TROPICAL BRAIN FRUIT!
I SURE WISH I COULD GET SOME OF THAT FRUIT SO I COULD GET AS SMART AS YOU!
WHAT'S IT WORTH TO YUH, FOSS?
ALL THIS HYAR MONEY!
IT'S A DEAL! I HAVE A PIECE OF THE TROPICAL BRAIN FRUIT RIGHT HYAR IN MY POCKET!
HYAR IT IS!
SHT, BOSS, THIS IS JUST AN ORDINARY ORANGE! IT ISN'T WORTH ALL THAT MONEY I GAVE YUH!
SEE! YO'RE GETTING SMART ALREADY!
!!!



WITS AGAINST GUN

BUFFALO NORTON was a cowpuncher by trade, but a bully by nature. He was the best shot over at the Bar-X ranch, and he never let anybody forget it. Swaggering, laughing, boasting, he could outshoot any ranny in the outfit, in any sort of contest. One of his favorite tricks was to pick a mock fight with one of the waddies, challenge him to a draw, and then easily shoot the gun out of his stinging hand. The humiliation, to the victim, was always worse than death could have been. Dead, you wouldn't have to listen to his gleeful roar of laughter.

Buffalo Norton was always happiest when a new cowpoke joined the outfit. He would lick his lips in anticipation. And so it was the day a tall, slim galoot by the name of Sherman Desmond signed up for his victuals.

After he was assigned his bunk space, Buffalo Norton sized him up with a squint. The other men waited, knowing what was coming, feeling sorry for the newcomer.

"Hey, pard," drawled Norton, as Sherman Desmond took a look around outside. "I'm Buffalo Norton and you'll take off yore hat when yuh speak to me, savvy?"

Desmond turned, surprised. "What's that?" he asked.

"Yuh heard me," Norton growled. "Off with yore hat or else."

Desmond's face clouded. "Who are you to give orders?"

Norton grinned. It always worked. "I gave yuh yore chance," he drawled, taking out his gun, firing, and returning it to his hip in one smooth motion.

The hat spun off the young ranny's head into the dirt. He turned slowly, eyes puzzled.

This was always Norton's big moment, for the insulted man would usually draw at this point, in fury, to save his pride. And laughing, Norton would easily spin his shooting iron away.

But Desmond didn't react the right way. He just stared at Norton blankly, and then grinned. "Having fun, pard?" he said, picking up his hat.

Norton staggered a little. He had never run up against this situation before! He fumed inwardly at the way his joke was backfiring.

"What's the matter?" he mocked. "Yuh white-livered? Haven't yuh got the gumption to draw on me? Man, I insulted yuh!"

"Reckon yuh did," Desmond drawled back. "Why?"

"Why?" Buffalo Norton choked, repeating the unexpected word. "Well, because—uh—"

"Because yo're looking for a fight, is that it?" Desmond smiled. "But that's plumb silly. I'm not mad at you. Are you mad at me?"

Some of the other boys snickered, it sounded so funny. And the joke was on Norton. He couldn't get his victim to draw! And without Desmond rising to the bait and drawing, Norton was left holding the bag.

Norton's face turned beet red, with purple veins of anger swelling on his neck. "Draw, yuh varmint!" he roared. "You've insulted me, so now I'm gonna count to three and shoot! One—two—"

"What are yuh going to shoot at?" Desmond inquired mildly, turning his back to look around casually.

Norton couldn't hold back a strangled "three" and then he stood with his gun in his hand, unable to shoot—not at a man's back. That would be plain murder, not fun.

But murder almost seethed in Norton's heart as a roar of laughter came from the watching cowpokes. "Looks like his tongue can outshoot yore gun, Buffalo!" yelped one ranny in delight.

Norton resembled nothing so much as a raging volcano blowing its top at this point. He would be the laughing-stock of the Bar-X for days to come if he didn't get the other man's goat and make him draw

Later that afternoon, Desmond was lighting a cigarette, nonchalantly, as if totally unaware that anything out of the ordinary had happened Norton's eyes lighted up With his blurring motion, he drew and fired!

The cigarette vanished from Desmond's lips, just as he was putting a match to it! Desmond stood rigidly for a moment then nodded his head admiringly.

"Nice shooting, Norton," he said, drawing a silver dollar from his pocket and spinning it in the air. "See if you can hit that dollar in the air."

Automatically, without thinking, Norton shot and knocked the silver cartwheel down. In a dead silence Desmond picked it up and handed it to Norton. "Pard, that's mighty slick shooting. Here, you can have the dollar. Reckon you ought to be in a side-show. You'd make the fat lady look sick, I betcha!"

Norton stood paralyzed as if he'd taken root like a tree. You could almost see him slowly collapsing inwardly like a pricked balloon.

"Hey, Norton," cackled one of the men. "Yuh ought to go be a dentist. Trying to make that waddia pull his gun is worse than pulling teeth.. Hewi"

Norton growled like a wounded bear. In desperation, he shot at Desmond's boots, nicking them. "Dance!" he shouted hoarsely. "Dance, yuh low-down polecat!"

But Desmond seemed to have nerves of steel. He merely looked down at the spurts of dirt near his feet, and then looked around quizzically. "But I can't dance without some music, Norton. Maybe if you was to get some of the boys to whip up a right smart tune, I might oblige."

Gun empty and smoking, Norton stood there with an idiotic expression, especially when he saw Desmond saunter over to his saddlebag and unhitch a long canvas bag, pulling something out. All the men were bug-eyed now.

"Guns were never rightly my weapon," Desmond drawled. "Learned this from the Indians one time—shooting a bow and arrows."

That was what Desmond had drawn from the canvas bag—a long bow and a quiver of arrows. Humming softly to himself, Desmond tested the cord, then fitted an arrow in place. "Somebody toss up a coin," he invited.

The bow went twang, the arrow went whiz, and the coin went spinning. And Desmond had done it all with the careless ease of a gun-slick shooting his iron! Mouths were hanging in silent amazement, including Norton's.

Desmond turned, eyes hard. "You had your fun, Norton! Now it's my turn!"

With the last word, an arrow blurred through the air and took Norton's hat along into a water trough. "You ain't got a cigarette in your mouth, but you've got a package of tobacco in your shirt—or you did have!"

Another arrow's point ripped open Norton's shirt pocket and spilled the tobacco sack into his face.

Norton made a strangled noise like a man hanging at the end of a rope. "And now, Norton," Desmond snapped, "you wanted me to draw before. Well, I'm ready! Bow against gun! Load up your gun and get ready!"

Growling, recovering his confidence, Norton loaded up and jammed his gun back in his holster. "Yuh mean your gonna outshoot me with that hunk of wood?"

"Sure," challenged Desmond, with arrow notched and bow ready. "Draw, pard—any time you're ready."

Dead silence fell, as the two men faced each other, tensely. Suddenly Norton drew like a striking rattler. But Desmond's motion was like the lightning that can catch even the rattler unaware. With a singing hiss, the arrow knocked the gun away from Norton, who gave a startled curse.

"Now dance, Norton," drawled Desmond. A flock of arrows zipped at Norton, clipping his shins, forcing Norton to prance around like a blind steer.

Five minutes later, Buffalo Norton rode away from the Bar-X at full gallop and was never seen there again!

"GOOD riddance," grinned one cowpoke, as Desmond put his bow away. "Buckaroo, that's some shooting with a bow. But why did you ever take up that Injun weapon—LOOK OUT... RATTLER! Behind you, Desmond!"

Rattler! The one word that could make any hombre of the west whip out his gun and shoot, without hesitation. Desmond whirled and pulled his gun—but then he stood there with his face turned, wincing, unable to pull the trigger. The other cowpoke shot the sidewinder.

"Well, reckon you know my secret now," Desmond said. "And that answers your question, why I took up bow and arrow. Never could stand the noise of them shooting irons!"

"Holy horned toads!" gasped the other cowpoke. "If Buffalo Norton only knew! You're GUN SHY!"

THE END

Lash LARUE and the FLOATING TRUNK
WHOA, RUSH! I RECKON I'VE BEEN A ROVING MARSHAL TOO LONG, BUT EVERYTIME I SEE SOMETHING ODD, I CAN'T RESIST INVESTIGATING!
ON THE OLD WEST, ONE OF THE CHIEF WAYS OF TRANSPORTING GOODS WAS BY RIVER BOAT! BUT WHEN OUTLAWS BOARD BOATS AND TRY TO FORCE THE CAPTAINS TO CARRY ILLEGAL CARGO, THEN LASH LARUE, THE ROVING MARSHAL, MUST STEP IN AND USE HIS FLYING FISTS AND AGILE MIND TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE FLOATING TRUNK!

IF I DON'T HAVE A LOOK AT THAT TRUNK, ALL THE WAY BACK TO HEADQUARTERS I'LL BE WONDERING WHAT IT WAS DOING FLOATING AROUND IN THE RIVER!
THERE'S NOTHING IN IT!
BUT WAIT, WHAT'S THIS? A PLEA FOR HELP! BUT WHERE COULD IT HAVE COME FROM UNLESS IT'S FROM OFF ONE OF THOSE RIVER BOATS OUT THERE!
HELP
COULD YOU TELL ME IF ANY OF THOSE BOATS HAVE BEEN ANCHORED OUT THERE FOR ANY LENGTH OF TIME?
THEY ALL HAVE BEEN, MISTER! WE'VE HAD AN EXCEPTIONALLY LOW TIDE AND THEY'VE ALL BEEN STUCK IN THE MUD OUT THERE FOR TWO DAYS NOW!
HELP
THANKS FOR THE INFORMATION!
IF THIS TRUNK CAME FROM ONE OF THOSE SHIPS, IT MAY MEAN SOMEONE'S BEING KEPT A PRISONER!
I'LL WAIT TILL DARK AND THEN ROW OUT THERE! IF MY HUNCH IS RIGHT, THOUGH, I'D BETTER PICK THE RIGHT SHIP! THEY'RE ALL ANCHORED SO CLOSE, THE GUILTY ONES COULDN'T HELP BUT GET WISE!

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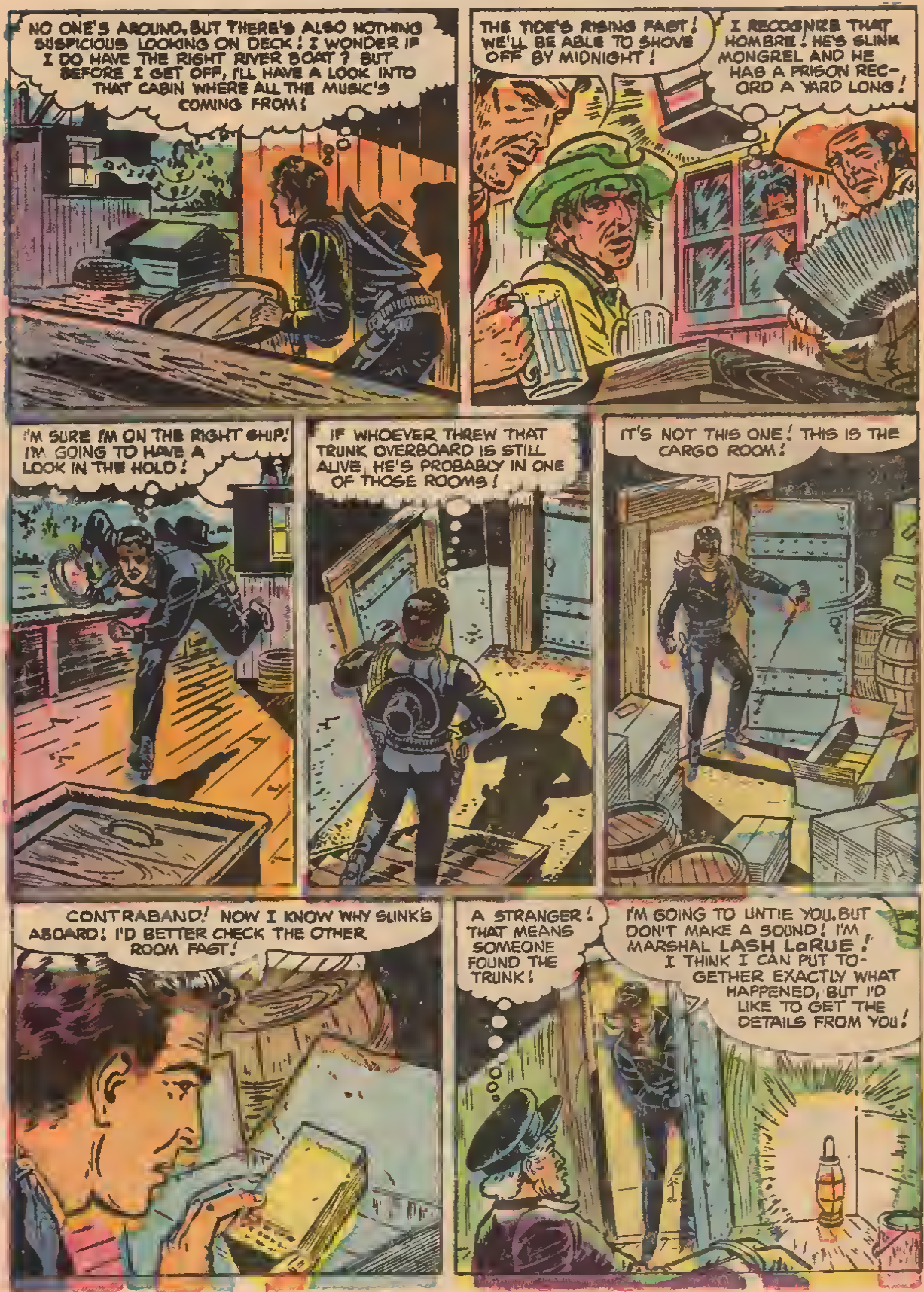
MEANWHILE, ABOARD ONE OF THE RIVER BOATS---
LOOK HERE, SLINK! THERE'S NO POINT IN YORE MEN DRAGGING ME UP FROM THE HOLD EVERY FEW HOURS! I'M TELLING YUH I WON'T PILOT THIS BOAT FER YUH!
AND I SAY YUH WILL, CAPTAIN BENSON! WHEN I RENTED IT FROM YUH YORE SERVICES AS PILOT WERE INCLUDED! AS SOON AS THE TIDE COMES IN, YUH BETTER TAKE OVER THE WHEEL!
WHEN I RENTED MY SHIP TO YUH, I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS TO CARRY AN ILLEGAL CARGO!
IT'S NONE OF YORE BUSINESS WHAT MY CARGO IS! THE TIDE IS DUE TO RISE BY MIDNIGHT AND YUH'LL EITHER TAKE THE WHEEL OR ELSE!
YUH CAN TOSS HIM BACK BELOW NOW!
OKAY, BOSS!
I WONDER IF ANYONE SPOTTED THAT TRUNK I THREW OVERBOARD AS SOON AS I DISCOVERED SLINK FILLED THE CARGO ROOM WITH SUPPLIES!
THAT NIGHT---
I HOPE I'VE GOT THE RIGHT BOAT--AND FOR THE SAKE OF WHOEVER NEEDS HELP, IT'D BETTER BE!
NOW IF I CAN ONLY GET ON DECK WITHOUT BEING SEEN!


NO ONE'S AROUND, BUT THERE'S ALSO NOTHING SUSPICIOUS LOOKING ON DECK! I WONDER IF I DO HAVE THE RIGHT RIVER BOAT? BUT BEFORE I GET OFF, I'LL HAVE A LOOK INTO THAT CABIN WHERE ALL THE MUSIC'S COMING FROM!
THE TIDE'S RISING FAST! WE'LL BE ABLE TO SHOVE OFF BY MIDNIGHT!
I RECOGNIZE THAT HOMBRE! HE'S SLINK MONGREL AND HE HAS A PRISON RECORD A YARD LONG!
I'M SURE I'M ON THE RIGHT SHIP! I'M GOING TO HAVE A LOOK IN THE HOLD!
IF WHOEVER THREW THAT TRUNK OVERBOARD IS STILL ALIVE, HE'S PROBABLY IN ONE OF THOSE ROOMS!
IT'S NOT THIS ONE! THIS IS THE CARGO ROOM!
CONTRABAND! NOW I KNOW WHY SLINK'S ABOARD! I'D BETTER CHECK THE OTHER ROOM FAST!
A STRANGER! THAT MEANS SOMEONE FOUND THE TRUNK!
I'M GOING TO UNTIE YOU, BUT DON'T MAKE A SOUND! I'M MARSHAL LASH LaRUE! I THINK I CAN PUT TOGETHER EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED, BUT I'D LIKE TO GET THE DETAILS FROM YOU!

AND THE FACTS TIE IN EXACTLY AS THE BRILLIANT ROVING MARSHAL HAD DEDUCTED!
THE SAFEST THING WE CAN DO NOW IS SNEAK OFF THE BOAT AND LEAVE THEM STRANDED HERE, CAPTAIN! THEN I CAN RETURN WITH A POSSE AND ROUND THEM ALL UP!
OKAY! BUT WE'D BETTER HURRY! IT'S ALMOST MIDNIGHT AND THAT'S WHEN THEY INTEND TO CAST OFF!
TOO LATE! HERE THEY COME!
LET'S GO BACK TO THE ROOM AND LOCK OURSELVES IN! I NOTICED IT HAD AN IRON DOOR! AT THIS MOMENT, A STALEMATE'S BETTER THAN RISKING A COMPLETE LOSS!
BUT BEFORE THE CAPTAIN CAN MOVE---
LOOK O--!

I NEVER SAW ANYONE FIGHT LIKE YUH, LASH! YUH'VE BEATEN THEM ALL!
NOT ALL OF THEM, SKIPPER--
THIS OUGHT TO KEEP YOU TWO FROM CAUSIN' TROUBLE!
EITHER YUH AGREE TO PILOT THIS SHIP, CAPTAIN BENSON, OR YOU'LL NEVER SEE LASH LARUE AGAIN!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YUH DO TO ME, BUT I CAN'T LET YUH HURT LaRUE RIGHT AFTER HE RISKED HIS LIFE TO SAVE MINE!
I'LL PILOT THE SHIP!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! NOW GET SOME WATER AND WAKE UP MY MEN!
SHORTLY AFTER---
LOCK LaRUE IN ONE OF THE ROOMS! I'LL TAKE THE CAPTAIN ON DECK SO HE CAN GET THE BOAT STARTED!
OKAY, BOSS!
FER AWHILE, I THOUGHT OUR JIG WAS UP, BUT YUH CAN ALWAYS COUNT ON SLINK TO COME THROUGH!
LET'S LOCK UP THIS WILDCAT AND GET ON DECK!

WE'RE MOVING!
THAT'S RIGHT! AND AS SOON AS WE REACH THE GULF WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO FIND SOMEPLACE WHERE WE CAN SAFELY SELL THE CONTRABAND!
AND THEN WE'LL GET RID OF LaRUE AND THE SKIPPER, SO THEY CAN'T EVEN SQUEAL ON US!
THE DOOR'S LOCKED! AND IT'S SOLID IRON!
THERE'S ONE OTHER CHANCE!
LASH LaRUE HAS RIGHTLY EARNED THE TITLE OF KING OF THE BULLWHIP!

IT'S A TIGHT SQUEEZE, BUT I CAN MAKE IT!
THE CAPTAIN NEVER WOULD HAVE AGREED TO PILOT THIS BOAT IF HE WASN'T WORRIED ABOUT SAVING MY LIFE!
WELL, I'VE GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF THIS COMPROMISING POSITION!
AND THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO START!
LASH LaRUE! HOW DID YUH - - -
HE ASKED FER IT! LET'S STOP HIM!
I'VE GOT TO GET THIS FELLOW'S GUN!
DON'T SHOOT! WE SURRENDER!
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
AIM THAT GUN AT ME, AND I'LL LET THE CAPTAIN HAVE IT!

LASH La RUE WESTERN

WAGONWHEELS
---WINS HAND OVER FIST!
HOWDY, WAGONWHEELS! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FER YUH!
HUH? LOOKING FER ME?
THAT'S RIGHT! YUH ALWAYS OPINE YO'RE SUCH A SMART HOMBRE WAL, I HAVE A QUESTION I BET YUH CAN'T ANSWER!
OH YEAH, WHAT IS IT?
YUH KNOW HOW YUH BIT DOWN!
SHORE'
WAL, WHAR DOES YORE LAP GO WHEN YUH STAND UP?
(GULP)
HA, HA, I KNEW YUH WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO ANSWER THAT!
HOLD YORE HOSSES! SURE I KNOW WHAR YORE LAP GOES WHEN YUH STAND UP---
---IT GOES THE SAME PLACE YORE FIST GOES WHEN YUH OPEN UP YORE HAND!
(GULP)

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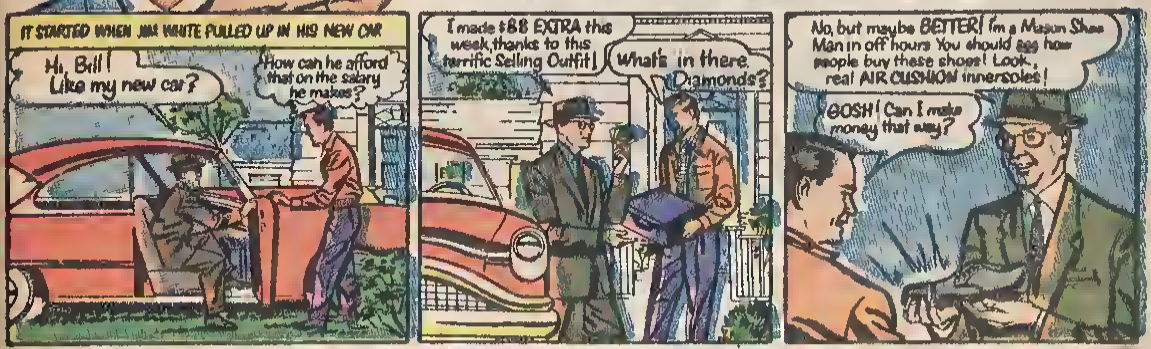

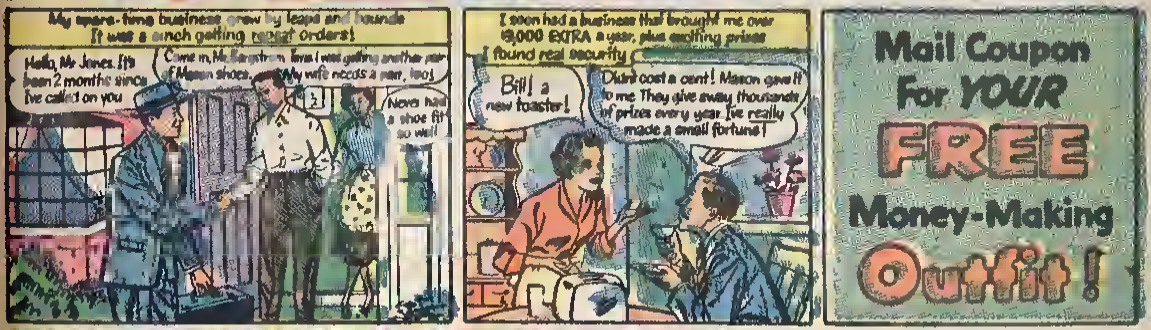

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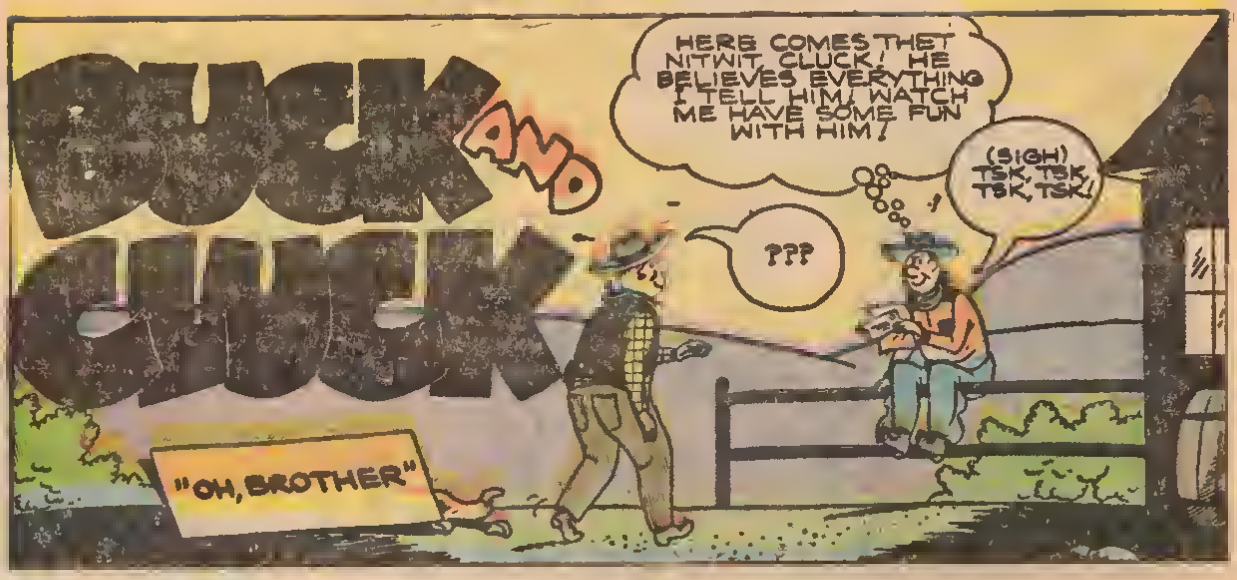
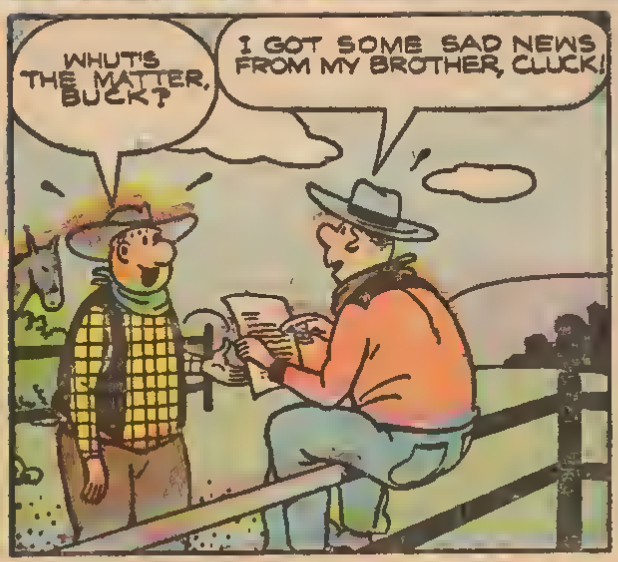
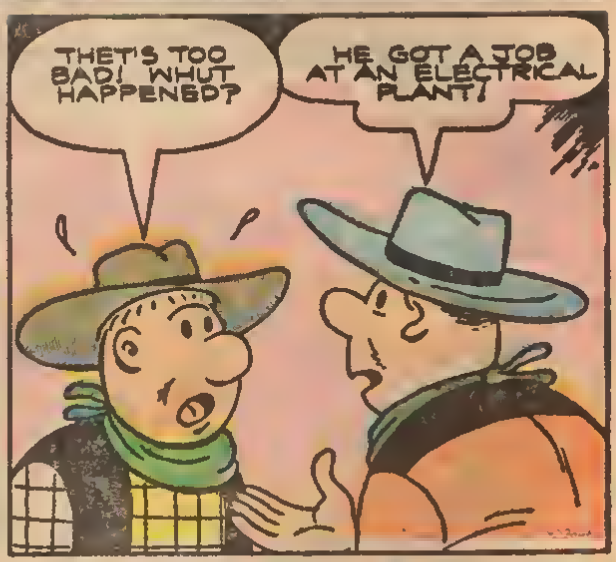
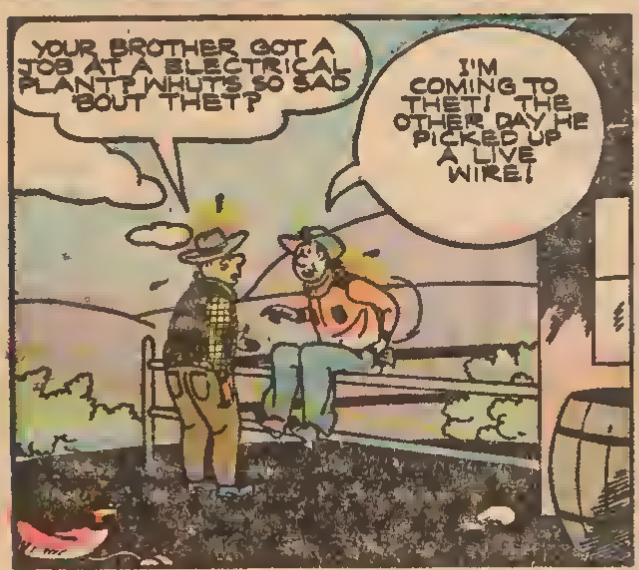
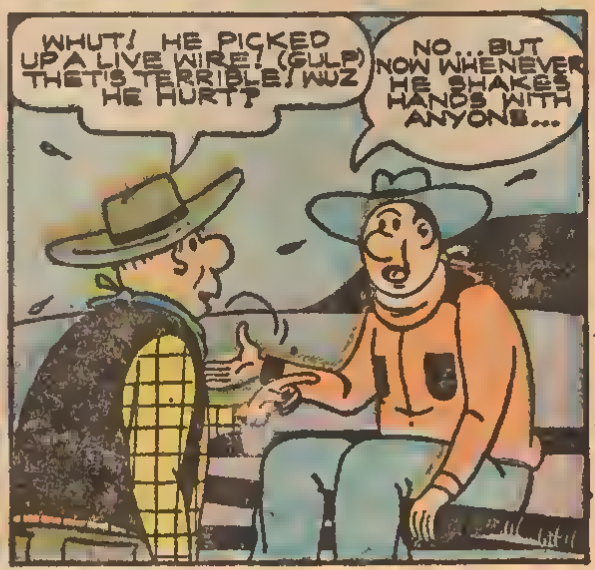
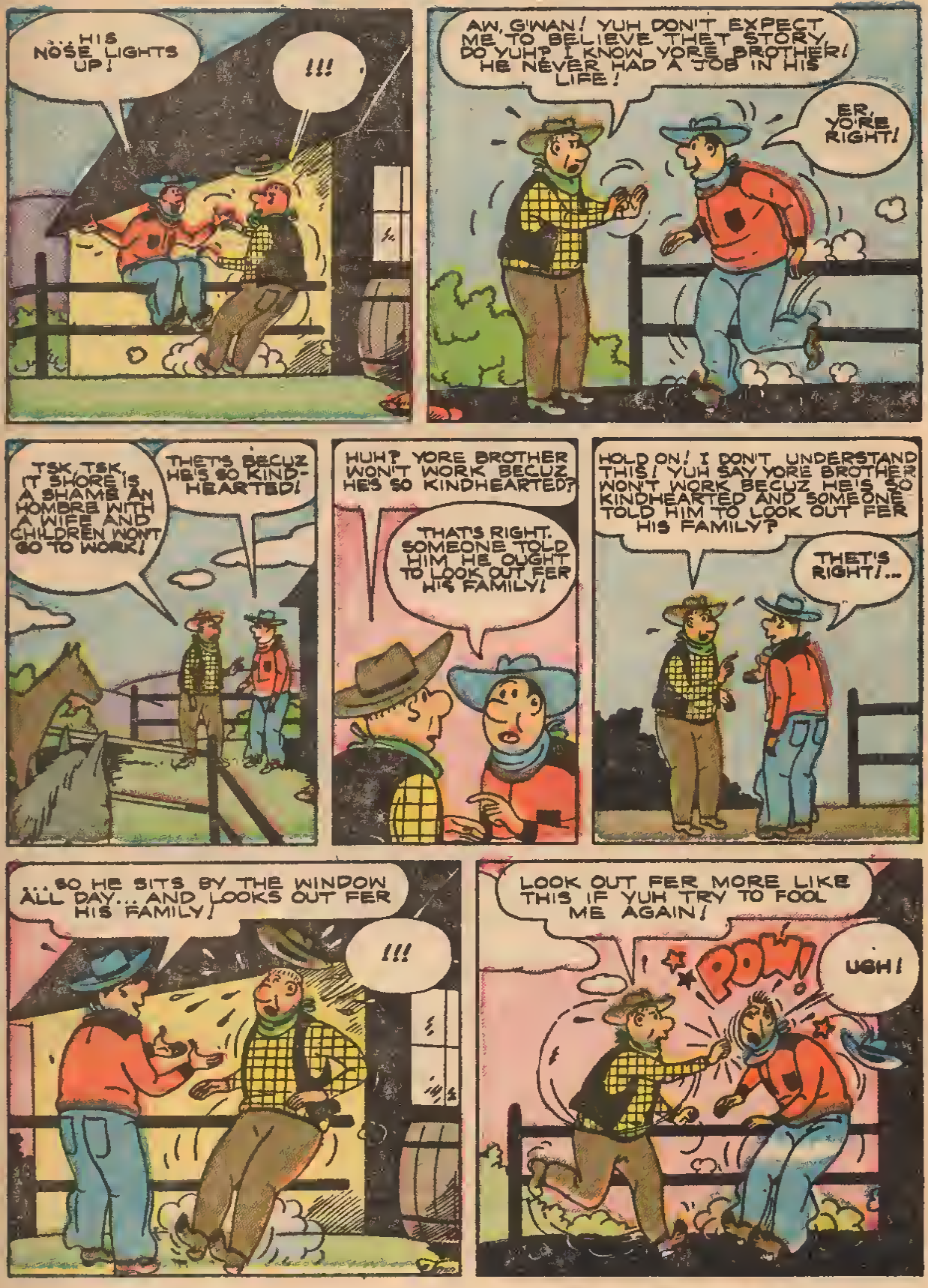

BUCK AND CLUCK
"OH, BROTHER"
HERE COMES THET NITWIT CLUCK! HE BELIEVES EVERYTHING I TELL HIM! WATCH ME HAVE SOME FUN WITH HIM!
(SIGH) TSK, TSK, TSK, TSK!
???


WHUT'S THE MATTER, BUCK?
I GOT SOME SAD NEWS FROM MY BROTHER, CLUCK!


THET'S TOO BAD! WHUT HAPPENED?
HE GOT A JOB AT AN ELECTRICAL PLANT!


YOUR BROTHER GOT A JOB AT A ELECTRICAL PLANT? WHUT'S SO SAD 'BOUT THET?
I'M COMING TO THET! THE OTHER DAY HE PICKED UP A LIVE WIRE!


WHUT! HE PICKED UP A LIVE WIRE! (GULP) THET'S TERRIBLE! WUZ HE HURT?
NO... BUT NOW WHENEVER HE SHAKES HANDS WITH ANYONE...


...HIS NOSE LIGHTS UP!
!!!
AW, G'WAN! YUH DON'T EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THET STORY, DO YUH? I KNOW YORE BROTHER! HE NEVER HAD A JOB IN HIS LIFE!
ER, YO'RE RIGHT!
TSK TSK, IT SHORE IS A SHAME AN HOMBRE WITH A WIFE AND CHILDREN WON'T GO TO WORK!
THET'S BECUZ HE'S SO KIND-HEARTED!
HUH? YORE BROTHER WON'T WORK BECUZ HE'S SO KINDHEARTED?
THAT'S RIGHT. SOMEONE TOLD HIM HE OUGHT TO LOOK OUT FER HIS FAMILY!
HOLD ON! I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS! YUH SAY YORE BROTHER WON'T WORK BECUZ HE'S SO KINDHEARTED AND SOMEONE TOLD HIM TO LOOK OUT FER HIS FAMILY?
THET'S RIGHT!...
...SO HE SITS BY THE WINDOW ALL DAY... AND LOOKS OUT FER HIS FAMILY!
!!!
LOOK OUT FER MORE LIKE THIS IF YUH TRY TO FOOL ME AGAIN!
POW!
UGH!

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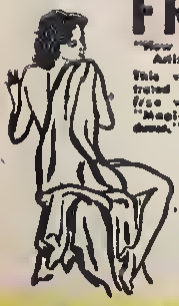

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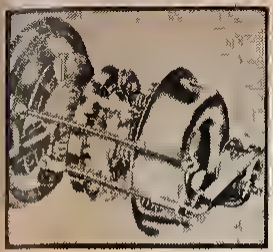

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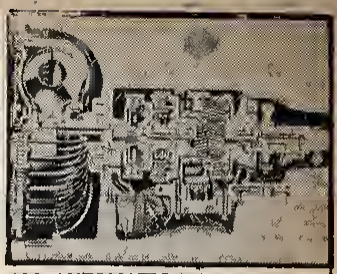

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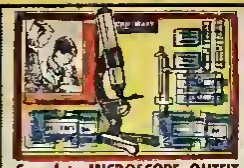

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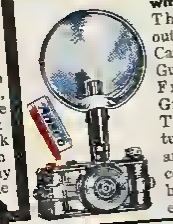

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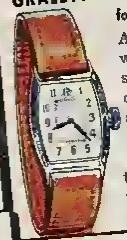

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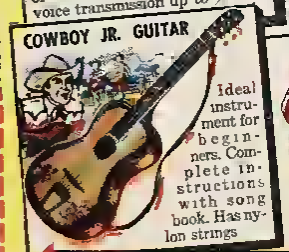

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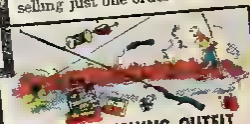

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